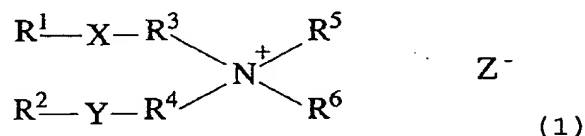


CLAIMS

1. A softener composition comprising:

(a) a quaternary ammonium compound represented by the formula

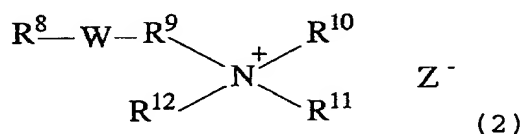
(1):



wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a C₁₂₋₂₂ alkyl or alkenyl group, X and Y are independently -COO-, -CONR⁷-, -OCO- or -NR⁷CO-, provided that at least one of X and Y is -COO- or -OCO-, R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R³ and R⁴ independently represent a C₁₋₅ alkylene group, R⁵ and R⁶ represent a C₁₋₃ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group or R¹-X-R³- and Z⁻ is an anionic group,

(b) a quaternary ammonium compound represented by the formula

(2):

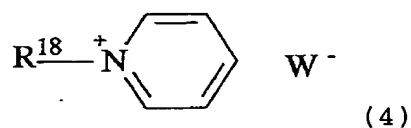
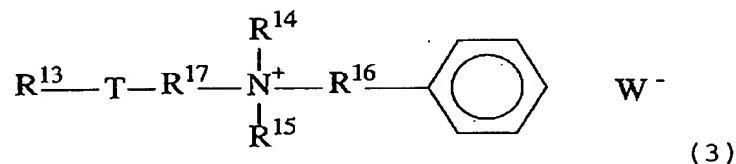


wherein R⁸ represents a C₁₂₋₂₂ alkyl or alkenyl group, W is a group selected from -COO-, -CONR⁷-, -OCO- and -NR⁷CO-, R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, preferably a hydrogen atom, R⁹ represents a C₁₋₅ alkylene group, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ represent a C₁₋₃ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R¹² represents a C₁₋₃ alkyl group or -R²⁶-OH, R²⁶ is a C₁₋₅ alkylene group and Z⁻

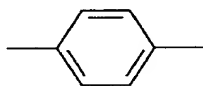
is an anionic group, and

a compound selected from the following component (c) or (d):

(c) 0.1 to 15 % by weight of a compound represented by formula (3) and/or formula (4):

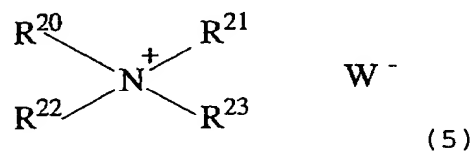


wherein R^{13} and R^{18} independently represent a C_{5-19} alkyl or alkenyl group, R^{14} and R^{15} independently represent a C_{1-3} alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, and T is $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CONH}-$, $-\text{NHCO}-$,



or a linkage, R^{16} represents a C_{1-3} alkylene group, R^{17} represents a C_{1-6} alkylene group or $-(\text{O}-\text{R}^{19})_n-$, R^{19} is ethylene group or propylene group and n is a number of 1 to 10 and W^{-} is an anionic group, and

(d) 0.01 to 15 % by weight of a compound represented by formula (5):



wherein 2 or 3 groups out of R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} represent a C_{8-12} alkyl group, the remainder of them represent a C_{1-3} alkyl group,

a C₁₋₃ hydroxyalkyl group or a C₇₋₁₅ arylalkyl group and Z⁻ is an anionic group.

2. The softener composition according to claim 1, which further comprises (e) a nonionic surfactant.

3. The softener composition according to claim 1 or 2, which further comprises 0.1 to 5 % by weight of (f) a C₈₋₂₂ fatty acid or a salt thereof.

SUB
C4

ADD
C5

105220 0203860